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REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
OF PENNSYLVANIA,

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE  
REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS.

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## RE P O R T.

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*The Committee to whom was referred the Bill "to provide for the Registration of Marriages, Births, and Deaths," respectfully report, that*

THE subject of a general registration of marriages, births, and deaths, is yearly attracting greater attention in this country. The period in which we live is marked by deep investigation and reform, and if methods by which the moral or physical condition of man may in any way be improved are worthy our careful reflection and experiment, no measure better deserves both than that which is the topic of this report.

So important did the founder of our State consider a registry of marriages, births, and deaths, that we find, by one of the laws agreed upon in England, in May, 1682, it was required that "there should be a register for births, marriages, burials, wills, and letters of administration." By another law, agreed upon at the same time, it was directed that all marriages should be "published before they were solemnized," and that a "certificate of the whole, under the hands of parties and witnesses, should be brought to the proper register of the county, and be registered in his office."

This requirement was in the same words re-enacted in the "Great Law," as it was styled, or body of laws, passed at the first Assembly held in the Province, in the month of December, 1682.

Whether it was ever directly repealed, cannot be ascertained. As the only registry in existence, as far as can be discovered, that in the recorder's office at Doylestown, ends in the year 1686, it is possible that after Penn's first departure from the Province, the law, deprived of his watchful guardianship, gradually ceased to be enforced, or was superseded by that of the session of 1690, which enacted, that "the registry kept by any religious society, in their respective meeting book or books, of any marriage, birth, or burial," should be "authentic and allowed of upon all occasions."

By an act passed in 1683, parties were required to "affix their intention of marriage on the Court or Meeting House door of the county wherein they dwelt, one month before the solemnization thereof, and to bring a certificate of the whole under the hands of the parties and witnesses, at least twelve, to the register of the county to be registered in his office," which was re-enacted with slight modifications at several subsequent sessions, and although not observed, is in force to this day. The value of a registry was doubtless suggested to Penn from the existence of parish registers in England, where they were established as early as the year 1538. They, however, were not confined to England, but existed in several countries of the continent, and in some at quite as early a period. The accumulated evidence afforded by them has so long stood a barrier against false claims, based on alleged relationship, that such litigation there is seldom heard of. The proof is so full, instant, accessible, and universally respected, that an unjust proceeding is rarely attempted, and if ventured is as surely defeated. It is much to be deplored that the law regarded by our founder as so fundamental, was permitted to be repealed or become obsolete. Had such a registry been kept to this day, with all its imperfections, it would have been a treasure of facts, and its value could hardly have been estimated. Let us, after the lapse of a century and a-half, take example of the wisdom of Penn, and endeavor to correct the evil of our long neglect.

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The advantages to be derived from a proper registration may be thus classified :

*First.* With reference to the legal evidence that would be furnished of a fact sought to be proved.

*Secondly.* With regard to the data that would be afforded, and from which the enquirer would be enabled to ascertain the physical condition of a people, the cause of disease, and the means of its removal ; the average length of life, and the measures by which it might be prolonged.

We take every pains to secure the record of a title-deed, to perpetuate all descriptions of evidence relating to the question of ownership, but yet have so far neglected to preserve evidence of equal importance to the citizen. It may be said that every man records his deed for his own protection, and is at liberty to do so or not, whereas the registration of marriages, births, and deaths, is now proposed to be required by law. It is right it should be so required. The person who neglects to make a registry may not personally suffer from the omission, but his descendants may, and why should they be harmed, not from the neglect of a parent, but because the law did not authorize that which would otherwise have been willingly done. Cases of neglect must arise under every law, but this is no objection to its enactment, and for preserving, to the extent it may be possible, that evidence on which the security of rights and the public welfare so much depend. Sagacious legislation is always based upon experience, and points to the protection of a right which may be assailed to-morrow, as fifty years hence. It is wise, too, in proportion to its comprehensiveness ; and that State is certainly the best governed which best protects the most insignificant as the most important right.

How frequently does it become necessary, in our Courts, to prove a descent or relationship ; and yet with all the latitude of hearsay, which the law by a merciful exception permits, how often does the attempt as signally fail, depriving the orphan, the widow, or the citizen, of just rights, and installing the wrongful claimant in possession of them.

The late act of Congress with regard to bounty lands, strikingly exhibits the value of a registry law. The instances are many in which widows and children have lost the allowance they were entitled to, for want of proper proofs. The same hardship also existed in the case of widows and children of soldiers of the revolution, as must occur to the recollection of many. Time, to be sure, is fast removing the injury in the first instance, and in the last has nearly done so, presenting a wise caution for the future.\*

The attention which all that concerns the moral and physical welfare of man at this day receives, is certainly the best evidence of rapidly increasing civilization.

It was not this effect our founder contemplated by the law to which we have referred, but registration is as important, if not more so, in this view, than as a means of legal proof.

The industry of scientific research, as shown in the daily discoveries of the era in which we live, all tending to the benefit of our kind, and indirectly to the prolongation of life, is not surpassed by philanthropic research, so to term it, in the many forms in which it is brought to bear upon the physical welfare of the race. A proper system of registration would therefore indicate the comparative health of localities, and where deaths were found to be greater in some than in other places, lead to an investigation of the cause, and suggest the means of lessening the evil. So that some check would be maintained over disease and death, and man who is constantly achieving an additional control over the elements around him, would bring the aid of a careful induction to bear on that which, in a physical sense, is, after all, the great end of life—its prolongation.

In the language of an able report upon this subject made in 1849, by a joint com-

\* In the office of the Department of State, at Harrisburg, are a large number of marriage bonds, containing the names of parties married, and ranging in date from 1778 to 1812. They might, in some instances, furnish evidence which elsewhere has been sought without success.

mittee to the Legislature of Massachusetts,\* we would remark, that a proper registry of marriages, births, and deaths, would in the annual array and report of the facts thereby collected, afford "an annual lesson on the laws of human life in their operation among ourselves,—a kind of practical physiology taught in all our towns, and at our firesides, and hence far more instructive and impressive, than any usually derived from books.

"They would teach the laws of human life, developed by the natural constitution of our bodies, as they usually exist under the influences that surround them, and how far they may be favorably modified and improved. This can be done only by an accurate knowledge of the facts that are daily occurring among us. These matters are important to the physician to aid him in curing the sick, but far more important to the people, to aid them in learning how to live without being sick. It is far more important to *avoid disease*, than to attempt to cure disease after it has invaded our system.

"Dr. Playfair, who made the sanitary survey of the county of Lancaster, states, as the result of his investigation, that there are yearly in that county, "398,000 cases of sickness, and 14,000 deaths, which might be PREVENTED. Of the deaths, 11,000 are of adults engaged in profitable labor. And, further, that every individual in that county loses 19 years, nearly one-half of the proper term of his life, and that every adult loses more than 10 years of life, and from premature old age and sickness, much more than that period of working ability; that the annual slaughter from typhus alone in England and Wales, is greater than the loss sustained by the allied armies in the battle of Waterloo! Yet, what sort of a battle do we here find fought and won, by *preventable disease* against the population of the county of Lancaster! What would be thought of a war in which 5000 of the able-bodied men in one county, fell every year in battle? And yet this is only half of the number annually slaughtered in that county by *removable epidemics*! Yet this annual loss of able-bodied men, so much greater than the most cruel of known wars in modern times, is scarcely more severe than the loss sustained by the continual physical deterioration of the survivors. It was a matter of constant complaint to me, by the recruiting officers in the various districts of the county, that the sons are less tall than the fathers, and that the difficulty is constantly increasing, of obtaining tall and able-bodied men." "What is true in relation to the people of England, may, to a greater or less extent, be true in the United States, and in Massachusetts. By the last registration report, it appears that the whole number of deaths registered in all the counties of the State of Massachusetts, except Suffolk, for the year ending in May, 1848, was 11,346. During the same time, 4,373 persons died in that county, and probably there were as many as 2,280 who died in the whole State, and who escaped registration. This would make the total deaths during the year 18,000, which was probably near the true number. This is 1 in 50 of the whole population of the State, estimating it at 900,000." \* \* \* "The labor of every man contributes not only to his own wealth, but to the wealth of the State; and it is the duty of the government to do all in its power to raise the standard of health to the highest possible state of vigor and productiveness.†

\* Report of the joint special committee of the Legislature of Massachusetts, upon the subject of modifying the laws relating to the registration of births, marriages, and deaths, presented March 3d, 1849, by Lemuel Shattuck, Esq., on behalf of the Committee.

† From the reports made by the Board of Health, it appears that the mortality in the city and county of Philadelphia, was as follows:—

Deaths for the year	1836	-	-	-	-	-	5,448
" "	1837	-	-	-	-	-	5,200
" "	1838	-	-	-	-	-	5,453
" "	1839	-	-	-	-	-	5,073
" "	1840	-	-	-	-	-	5,045
" "	1841	-	-	-	-	-	5,697
" "	1842	-	-	-	-	-	5,828
" "	1843	-	-	-	-	-	5,529
" "	1844	-	-	-	-	-	5,510
" "	1845	-	-	-	-	-	6,247
" "	1846	-	-	-	-	-	6,472
" "	1847	-	-	-	-	-	7,149

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"It may be proper to take a pecuniary view of this matter, and consider time as money, labor as money, *life as money*."

"The pecuniary losses incurred by preventable sickness and mortality, have often been estimated by competent persons. They include the cost of extra cases of sickness, in medical attendance, medicine, and nursing; the loss of wages during sickness; the cost of funerals for extra deaths; the loss of lifetime of the premature dead; and the cost of maintaining widows and orphans, thrown, by the premature death of husbands and fathers, on public or private charity. And they estimate, on the average, severe sickness, including medicine and nursing, at \$150 per annum; funerals at \$10 each; the lifetime of the premature dead, allowing twenty-five years as the average time of productive labor, \$1,250 for each entire life; and the cost of maintaining the widows and orphans which one premature death occasions, at \$1,000 each. We will, however, present this subject in a more simple form, and estimate, at least, that *five years* might, on the average, have been added to the lives of each of the 18,000 persons who died in this State (Massachusetts) the last year, and that 4,000 years of sickness occurred, and 14,000 years of labor were lost which might have been prevented. Taking this favorable basis, we have—

Loss of labor (18,000 x 5) 90,000 years, at \$50 per year	-	\$4,500,000
Cost of 4,000 years of sickness, at \$50 per year	-	200,000
Loss of 4,000 years of labor, at \$150 per year	-	600,000
 Total annual loss	-	 \$5,300,000

"These statements are confirmed by the investigations which have been made elsewhere. Lord Morpeth, when he introduced into Parliament his bill for the sanitary improvement of the towns in England, said "there are items of expenses which may be reckoned to be incurred under the present system, or rather want of system; direct attendance on the sick; loss of what they would have earned; premature death of productive contributors to the national wealth, and expense of premature funerals. Dr. Playfair estimates this loss for Manchester at nearly £1,000,000; Mr. Hawkesley calculates the loss of Nottingham at £300,000; Mr. Clay estimates the loss for Preston at £990,000; Mr. Coulthait makes the loss for Ashton-under-Lyne at £235,000; and Dr. Playfair considers the loss of London to be above £2,500,000; and that of England and Wales little short of £11,000,000; and of the United Kingdom £20,000,000, or nearly \$100,000,000! And this an annual loss!"

"This pecuniary view of the subject, though striking in itself, will, we sincerely believe, be found, when analyzed and compared with the actual facts, to be far below the actual loss incurred. As it is, however, it presents a powerful argument in favor of removing those causes which produce this enormous annual loss, and in favor of registration to ascertain those causes."

A pecuniary view of the advantages of registration becomes very insignificant in contrast with the physical and moral suffering produced by disease and death in the thousand influences, direct and indirect, which it is hoped a careful registration may enable us to alleviate.

The State of Pennsylvania has always shown a proper degree of interest on subjects connected with the prosperity of her citizens or her reputation as a State; and although with reference to registration she has not as yet followed the example of some of her sisters, particularly the enlightened one of Massachusetts, the omission arises from the fact that public attention has not been aroused to its importance.

Great Britain, which, on more than one occasion, has adopted our law reforms, in

Deaths for the year 1848	-	-	-	-	-	7,727
" " 1849	-	-	-	-	-	9,462
" " 1850	-	-	-	-	-	8,509
 Births for the year 1846	-	-	-	-	-	9,946
" " 1847	-	-	-	-	-	9,723

the imperfections in their parochial registration, and a committee was appointed by Parliament to report the defects in the law. They did so; and among other reasons, stated that "it involved matter of great public and national interest, as well as individual satisfaction, and rights and claims to property; that great trouble, vast expense, utter uncertainty, capricious changes, and local and general evils exist, while no means are supplied to obtain the information other countries possess and justly value, as to the state of disease, the operation of moral and physical causes on the health of the people, the progress of the population and other matters, on which accurate knowledge can scarcely be too highly appreciated, or too intensely pursued."

The public mind having been awakened to the greatness of the subject, a bill was introduced into Parliament by Lord Russell, and advocated in-doors and out of doors by some of the first minds of England. It became a law, and went into force in 1837. It has, so far, proved a beneficent scheme, and worked with excellent success.

The medical profession with all that science and philanthropy that everywhere distinguishes them, have wrought upon these rich and abundant results of a varied registration, and elicited great truths. By sharp scrutiny, close and laborious comparison, they have established the comparative health of localities, and with an industry not less active, having discovered the cause of disease, have pointed out the means of its removal. In illustration of this we would quote from the interesting circular letter addressed to the medical profession of Pennsylvania, by the Committee of the "Philadelphia College of Physicians." "It appears," remark the Committee, "from the report of the Commissioners presented to the British Parliament, in 1845, that the statements made in successive reports of the Registrar General, of excessive mortality occurring in various places, had induced many persons to search out its cause. These inquiries resulted in the removal of cess-pools, and accumulations of putrid substances, in the digging of sewers, &c. The Commissioners state, that in Manchester, after paving and draining in twenty streets, there was such an amelioration in the health of the improved districts, that but ninety deaths annually took place where one hundred and ten occurred before. Not unfrequently, the received opinion of the healthfulness of a place has been directly contradicted by the evidence of registration. In this connexion, the case of Liverpool is remarkable. The rapid increase of that great commercial mart was formerly attributed, among other things, to the salubrity of the air; but it is now ascertained, that at all periods of life the chances of living in Liverpool, are actually less than in any other known place of equal population. Comparing it with Surrey, a rural district of England, it appears that while a child at birth has a chance of living 45 years in Surrey, it has a chance of living only 25 in Liverpool."

Although possessing an imperfect plan of registration, from as early a period as 1639, Massachusetts, impressed by the results obtained under the English system, in 1842, passed a registry law, since which all pains have been bestowed by her to enlarge its scope and secure more accurate details. At nearly every session of her Legislature copious reports, embracing the most recent information, are presented. As a consequence of the introduction of the system, the Governor of that State, by an act of 1849, was authorized to appoint commissioners to prepare a sanitary survey of the State, and in 1850 a report of 600 pages was prepared and published, containing facts of the utmost interest. The blessed effect of the information a laborious examination has in this volume accumulated, it would be as impossible to calculate as it would be to estimate the value of health and life.

Your Committee would, therefore, report, with amendments, the bill committed to them, as the result of some care and examination bestowed upon the subject. Although minute in its details, it is so only to that extent which is indispensable to secure any advantage from its operation. It will be perceived that many of the particulars are required to establish an identity and to prevent confusion resulting from a similarity of names. The cost of registry is required to be paid by the county, and not by the individual. This provision was inserted from the belief that was it made a personal charge, the operation of the law would have been frustrated. The expense to the county will be small in comparison with the benefit which will be derived by it.

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her registry system, is altogether in our advance. In 1833, attention was directed to

From the popularity of the law in Great Britain and Massachusetts, it is to be hoped it will not be the less strictly complied with in Pennsylvania. The great objects to which it is directed, the protection of the citizen and the good of the race, have only to be understood to ensure its faithful fulfilment.

EDWARD ARMSTRONG,

*On behalf of the Committee*

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BILL, NO. 649.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FILE.

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ARMSTRONG,—Select.

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READ—MARCH 13, 1851.

Whereas, From the death of witnesses, and from other causes, it has often been found difficult to prove the marriage, birth, or death of persons, whereby the rights of many have been sacrificed, and great wrongs have been done.

And whereas, Important truths deeply affecting the physical welfare of mankind, are to be drawn from the number of marriages, births, or deaths, that during a term of years may be contracted, or may occur within the limits of an extensive Commonwealth.

Therefore:—

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That from and after the first day of July next, each register of wills in the several counties of this State, shall be supplied with separate books, in which he shall register, in the manner hereinafter directed, the marriages which may have been contracted, and the births and deaths which may have occurred within his county.

SECTION 2. That it shall be the duty of every clergyman, alderman, justice of the peace, clerk or keeper of the records of the religious society of Friends, and of every other person or society, by or before whom any marriage may hereafter be solemnized or contracted, to return the same under oath or affirmation in the form of a certificate, duly signed by the person so certifying to the register of the county in which such marriage shall have been solemnized or contracted, which said record and certificate shall set forth the full name of the husband, his occupation, and the name of his place of birth, and residence, the full name of the wife previously to the said marriage, the names of the parents of said husband, and of the parents of said wife, also the color of the parties, and the time and place where such marriage was contracted, and if pronounced by any clergyman or other person as aforesaid, the place of residence of such person.

SECTION 3. It shall be the duty of every physician, midwife, or other person under whose care a birth shall hereafter take place, to make at once a record of such birth in a book to be kept for the purpose, and to return the same duly signed by him or her in the form of a certificate, to the register of the county in which such birth shall have taken place, in the manner, and within the period directed by the second section of this act, which said record and certificate shall set forth the full name of such child, if any name should have been conferred, its sex, color, and whether born quick, or dead, the full name as well as occupation of its parent or parents; and for better iden-

tification, the full name previously to marriage of the mother of such child, the day, hour, and place in, and at which such birth occurred, and any circumstances connected with such birth that may be deemed of interest. In case such birth shall have occurred without the superintendence of any person, and should no physician or other person be in attendance upon the parent immediately thereafter, it shall then become the duty of the parent or parents of such child, to return the same to the register in the manner, form, and within the period above required.

SECTION 4. Every physician, surgeon, or other person, who shall hereafter be in attendance at the period of the death of any individual dying within this State, shall make at once a record of such death in a book to be kept by him for the purpose, and shall return the same duly signed in the form of a certificate, to the register of the county in which such individual may have resided at the time of death, in the manner and within the period directed in the second section of this act, which record and certificate shall set forth the full name, sex, and color of the person deceased, and his or her age, as nearly as the same can be ascertained; also the name of his or her parents, the occupation, place of birth (term of residence, if a sojourner or foreigner), the period, place, and cause of death, name of burial ground in which interred, and if married at the time of death, the name of the husband or wife, as the case may be. And no person having the charge as sexton, or otherwise, of any vault or burying ground, shall inter, or permit or cause to be interred, the dead body of any person in such vault or burying ground, without first procuring a copy of such record duly certified as aforesaid by the person who made it; and, further, no sexton or other person shall inter within this State, the dead body of any person who may have died beyond its limits, unless the same, having been previously buried without the State, shall be removed here for reinterment, without first procuring a certificate in the form above set forth, which certificate in either case as aforesaid when obtained he shall sign, and before the expiration of thirty days from the time at which he may have received it, shall return the same to the register aforesaid.

When any person shall have died without the attendance of any physician, surgeon, or other person as aforesaid, the coroner or two responsible inmates of, or neighbors to the house at which such death occurred, shall furnish such sexton or other person as aforesaid, with a certificate similar to that above set forth, and every physician, coroner, or other person, who shall neglect or refuse to furnish the certificate required by this section, and every sexton or other person having the care or superintendence of any vault or burial ground, who shall neglect to procure such certificate as aforesaid, or having procured it, shall neglect or refuse to return it as aforesaid, shall each for every such neglect or refusal, forfeit and pay the sum of twenty dollars, which sum shall be recoverable as debts of the like are recoverable by any person who may sue for the same. All certificates or returns required by this act, shall be signed by the parties so certifying.

SECTION 5. This act shall not be construed to prevent the registry of any marriage contracted, or birth or death happening, previously to its passage, within the limits of this State; nor of the marriage, birth, or death, of any person or persons who may have married, been born, or may have died elsewhere, but who were the child or children of citizens of this State; nor of any marriage contracted previously or subsequently to the passage of this act, in any other part of these United States or their territories: *Provided*, Either of the parties married were permanently residing in this State at the time, or at such time previously to such marriage: such registrations shall be in the form already prescribed, and shall be kept apart from the current registrations, and in separate books, as is already required in the case of other registrations, but shall be embraced in the general index. The proof of every such marriage shall be as follows, to wit: in the case of a marriage by the person who pronounced it, or if such proof cannot be made, or the marriage shall have been contracted according to the manner of the religious society of Friends, then it shall be made by some one who was present thereat: in the case of a birth, by some one who has actual knowledge of the period at which such person was born, or of his or her parentage; and in the case of a death, by some one who actually saw such person dead, or who has actual knowledge of the fact. Such proof

shall be under oath or affirmation, and shall be in its character satisfactory to the register: *Provided further*, That should any person feel aggrieved at the decision of the register aforesaid, he or she, or as the case may be, the next friend, or the representative of the person on whose behalf such application is made, shall have the right of an appeal to the orphans' court of the proper county, in which case the testimony so taken shall be sent up with the appeal to the said court, by the said register, accompanied by a written statement of his reasons for rejecting it as insufficient.

SECTION 6. That no letters of administration or letters testamentary shall be granted by any register upon the estate or effects of any person, or if granted, shall be valid, until the death of such person shall be duly certified to the said register, in order that the same may be duly registered according to the forms and provisions of this act, or as strictly in compliance therewith, as it may be in the power of the party so to do.

SECTION 7. That no appointment of any guardian to the person or estate of any minor, by any orphans' court within this State, shall be valid, until the date of the birth of such minor, and the date of the death, as well as the name of his or her parent or parents shall be duly registered according to the provisions of this act, or as strictly as the same can be complied with, unless from the death of any witness, or from some other cause deemed sufficient, upon strict investigation by the said court, such proof cannot be made, or cannot at any time be conveniently made, in which latter case it shall be made as soon as it may be practicable.

SECTION 8. That the said books or registers, or a certificate, duly certified by the register and authenticated by his seal of office, as containing a full copy of the record of any marriage, birth, or death, shall hereafter be admitted in any court of this State as *prima facie* proof of any marriage, birth, or death: *Provided, however*, That should no such registration exist, the proof of any marriage, birth, or death shall be sufficient, if made in the manner now or hereafter required under the decisions of the Supreme Court of this Commonwealth.

SECTION 9. That if any register shall not, within fourteen days after an application made to him to register any marriage, birth, or death, as aforesaid, register in the proper form and book, any such marriage, birth, or death, as the same shall be certified to him, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty dollars, to be recovered as debts of the same amount are recoverable by any person who may sue for the same; and all certificates of marriages, births, or deaths, duly returned, shall be preserved and filed by the register.

SECTION 10. That if any person shall wilfully, knowingly, and falsely, swear or affirm to, or return any such certificate of such marriage, birth, or death, or if any register shall, wilfully and knowingly, make, or cause to be made in the said books, a false entry of such marriage, birth, or death, the said person or register so offending shall be punished by fine or imprisonment, or both, at the discretion of the Court having the cognizance of such offences, the fine not to exceed eight hundred dollars, and the imprisonment not to exceed seven years.

SECTION 11. Should any individual, whose duty it has been made by this act to return the marriage, birth, or death, of any person or persons, to the register of the proper county, fail to do so, whether the said return be demanded by the register or not, within the time before specified, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of five dollars for every such omission, to be recoverable as debts of the same amount are recoverable by any person who may sue for the same, except in those cases of omission or neglect in which, by the terms of this act, a penalty has been already affixed.

SECTION 12. The registry of marriages, births, and deaths, shall be kept in separate books, which books shall be made of parchment or of parchment paper. There shall be general indexes to the records of all marriages, births, and deaths; which indexes of marriages, births, and deaths, respectively, shall be kept in separate books, and shall be composed of parchment. Opposite to each name in the said index shall be affixed not only the reference to the record, but the day of the month and year in which any marriage may have been contracted, or birth or death may have occurred, as the case may be.

SECTION 13. In order to secure uniformity, precision, and greater despatch, in the

foresaid registration, the said books shall contain (upon each page of the same, and along the margin at the side of the said page) printed titles, duly numbered, opposite to which shall be left blanks or spaces in which entries shall be made corresponding to the particular subject of each of the said titles. The said titles in the books for registering marriages, births, and deaths, shall be printed and arranged in the following words and order, to wit:

*For Registering Marriages.*

1. Full name of the husband.
2. Name of the father of said husband.
3. Name of the mother of said husband.
4. Occupation of husband.
5. Residence of husband.
6. Birth-place of husband.
7. Full name of the wife, previously to marriage.
8. Name of the father of said wife.
9. Name of the mother of said wife.
10. The time when the marriage was contracted.
11. The place, town or township, and county where the marriage was contracted.
12. The color.
13. By what ceremony contracted.
14. Name and official station of person pronouncing marriage.
15. Residence of person last named.
16. Name of person signing the certificate.
17. Date of certificate.
18. Date of registration.

*The titles in the books for registering births in the following words and order, to wit:*

1. Full name of child.
2. Sex.
3. Color.
4. How born.
5. Full name of father.
6. Occupation of father.
7. Name of the mother previously to marriage.
8. Hour, day of week, of month, and the year of birth.
9. Place, town or township, and county in which born.
10. Name of physician or other person signing the certificate, or on whose application registry is made.
11. Residence of such person.
12. Date of certificate.
13. Date of registration.
14. Any additional circumstances.

*The titles in the books for registering deaths in the following words and order, to wit:*

1. Full name of deceased.
2. Color.
3. Sex.
4. Age.
5. Name of father of deceased.
6. Name of mother of deceased.
7. Occupation.
8. Place of birth.
9. Term of residence, if a stranger, et cetera.
10. Name of wife of deceased.
11. Name of husband of deceased.
12. Date of birth and date of death.

13. Cause of death.
14. Name of the place, town or township, and county in which the person died.
15. Name and location of burial ground in which interred.
16. Name of person returning certificate.
17. Residence of such person.
18. Date of certificate.
19. Date of registration.

At the bottom of each page in each of said books, there shall be left a blank for the registry of any fact, which any act or acts of assembly hereafter enacted may require shall be registered, and all interlineations or erasures shall at the time be noted by the register.

SECTION 14. The said register, with the exceptions hereinafter named, shall receive for registering any marriage, birth, or death, the sum of ten cents, which shall be paid to him by the treasurer of the proper county, except for registering any marriage contracted, or birth, or death happening previously to the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one, in which case he shall receive twenty-five cents, to be paid by the party for administering every oath or affirmation connected with such registration, which shall be paid to him by the treasurer of the proper county; three cents for examining every witness; in which the testimony is reduced to writing and at length, twenty-five cents; for sending up the record upon an appeal, fifty cents, for granting a certified copy of the full record of any marriage, birth, or death, fifty cents.

All emoluments arising from the registration, except the amount paid by the several counties to the registers, which shall exceed the sum of one thousand dollars shall be paid into the State Treasury. In order the more effectually to guard against injury from the loss by fire or otherwise, of the records of any county, and for other purposes, it shall be the duty of each register (under the penalty of twenty dollars for every neglect, recoverable as aforesaid), in each of the counties semi-annually, between the fifteenth and twentieth day of January and July in each year, to transmit a copy of the record of marriages, births, and deaths, before specified, duly certified by him to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, who shall file the same in his office, and annually transmit to the Legislature an abstract of the number of marriages, births, and deaths which have occurred in the State during each year next preceding the first day of January, and for which purpose the said secretary shall furnish, at the cost of the Commonwealth, each of the said registers with proper blanks, prepared in the form required by the thirteenth section of this act; and shall also furnish to each of the said registers, at the cost of the Commonwealth, the blank books and indexes required by the first or any other section of this act; and shall also, at the same time, transmit a printed copy of this act, which shall be bound with said blank books, and such instructions on the subject of the law as he may see fit to prepare.

SECTION 15. Every clergyman, justice of the peace, physician, sexton, or undertaker, whose duty it is to make any return under this act, shall, on or before the first day of October next, return his name and residence to the register of the county in which he may reside, who shall record the said return in a book to be kept for the purpose, to be provided at the expense of the county; and such person shall notify the register of his removal to any other place in or out of the said county, within thirty days after such removal, except where he may cease to act in a professional or official capacity.

SECTION 16. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith, or supplied as aforesaid, are hereby repealed.